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By email: Jenny.Chu@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Jenny

Request for advice for Fort Street Public School Mod 1 – Design and layout changes (SSD 10340 Mod 1)

Thank you for inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above modification to the approved State Significant Development (7 October 2020). Heritage NSW is providing this delegated response, noting that this proposed modification involves changes to the design of buildings, including rooftop and circulation areas, landscaping and vehicular access arrangements including:

- removal of the Lower Ground Level (basement) below new Building G
- relocation of the lift from the existing MET Building to new Building J
- extension of new Building J by one story to provide lift access and two (2) egress stairs from the existing MET Building rooftop
- introduction of a rooftop link connection between the existing MET Building and new Building J.

Heritage Items

The Fort Street Public School (FSPS) is located within Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct which is an item listed on the State Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1977*(SHR 01682).

There are three other SHR-listed items located in the vicinity of the FSPS site.

- Millers Point Conservation Area (SHR 00884)
- Sydney Observatory (SHR 01449)
- Sydney Harbour Bridge, approaches and viaducts (SHR 00781)

Three local heritage items (listed under the *Sydney Local impact s Plan 2012*) are located within the FSPS site.

- Fort Street Primary School Site including buildings and their interiors, fig trees and grounds (SLEP No. I938)
- The Bureau of Meteorology including interior (SLEP No. I936)
- The Messenger's Cottage for Sydney Observatory including interior (SLEP No. I937)

Comments

State significant historical archaeology

I note that the modification reduced the quantum of excavation and this is a positive outcome for conservation of archaeology.

State significant archaeology was confirmed by approved test excavations. It is recommended that State significant archaeology is conserved in situ wherever possible. No updated archaeological research design and excavation methodology was provided with the modification. This document should be provided as soon as possible.

Additionally, in-situ interpretation of the State significant archaeology should be designed during the detailed design development stage in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW or its delegate. It is also recommended that interpretation of significant historical archaeology be a central component of the heritage interpretation plan (Condition D25).

Additional heritage impact

I agree that the relocation of the lift from the existing MET Building to new Building J will minimise physical impacts on the heritage building.

However, the modification to Building J increases the form, bulk, height and scale of Building J. This will have additional visual impact on the views and vistas to/from the FSPS site and Observatory Hill.

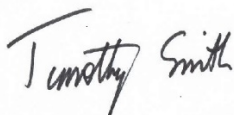
The 2020 Conservation Management Plan identified the *'expanded curtilage as relevant to the FSPS Site includes the Sydney Observatory and Observatory Hill Park in the north and west, and the National Trust site to the south. This expanded associated curtilage of heritage significance makes allowance for the heritage context and visual connections surrounding the site.'* Further, the CMP's policy guideline 25.5 states to conserve the MET building as a *'dominant building on site (both in height and architectural form)'*.

The proposed modification to Building J therefore does not comply with the CMP. The proposal will make Building J the dominant building at the FSPS site and Observatory Hill which is a sub-optimal heritage outcome. This has an additional visual impact on the views and vistas to Observatory Hill as well as impacting the visual and historical relationship between the National Trust Centre (former school building) and the 1940s school building at FSPS site.

If you have any questions regarding this Fort Street Public School development response (SSD 10340), please contact Hendry Wan, Senior Heritage Officer Major Projects at Heritage NSW, on (02) 8837 6090 or at Hendry.Wan@environment.nsw.gov.au

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the relevant heritage matters.

Yours sincerely



Tim Smith OAM

Director Operations

Heritage NSW

Department of Premier and Cabinet

As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

20 May 2021